

# *The Heterodyne*

*Newsletter of the West Valley Amateur Radio Association*

## **NEXT MONTHLY MEETING**

**Wednesday March 16**

Meetings Begin at 7pm at Silicon Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross  
2731 N First St, San Jose (SW corner at Plumeria Dr)



### **March 16 Meeting**

**“The Latest New Toys at HRO”  
by Howard Califf, W6HOC**

Howard will fill us in on new and favorite  
products at Ham Radio Outlet!

Meeting Location:

American Red Cross  
Silicon Valley Chapter

2731 N. First Street at Plumeria Drive  
(southwest corner) in San Jose.

### **Drawing At Our March 16 Meeting**

All members whose renewal dues have  
been received are eligible. The winner will  
receive a \$25 HRO gift certificate, and  
does not need to be present to win.

### **Club Net**

WVARA's club net is on the W6PIY repeat-  
ers each Tuesday at 8:30 pm. All repeaters  
are linked together during the net. The net  
script can be found at <http://www.wvara.org/net.html> .

### **WVARA Repeaters (W6PIY)**

Band	Frequency	PL	Status
6 Meters	52.580- MHz	151.4 Hz	Operating
2 Meters	147.39+ MHz	151.4 Hz	Operating
1.25 Meters	223.96- MHz	156.7 Hz	Operating
0.70 Meter	441.35+ MHz	88.5 Hz	Operating
0.23 Meter	1286.2- MHz	100 Hz	Operating

### **New Member**

Please welcome Rick Ibarra, KJ6MVI,  
our newest club member!  
Favorite Mode: CW (QRP).

### **HF Communication Bulletin**

Emergency HF communications in  
Japan are centered on 3525, 7030,  
7043, 7075, 14100, 21200, and 28.200  
kHz. Please avoid these and nearby  
frequencies when the bands may be  
open to the NW Pacific Rim.

## [Pre-Register Now](#)



**International DX Convention**  
**April 15-17, 2011**  
**Visalia, CA**

- ▶ **Cool People**
- ▶ **30 Exhibitors**
- ▶ **Great Raffle Prizes**
- ▶ **Cool People**
- ▶ **Contest Academy**
- ▶ **QSL Card Checking**
- ▶ **Cool People**
- ▶ **DX & Technical Presentations**
- ▶ **IOTA, Contesting, Topband Dinners**
- ▶ **Cool People**

**Includes Saturday Banquet - Ladies Tour - Golf Tournament. Meet DXers who travel from around the world to this premier DX event. Early registration closes on March 19th, so register today at <http://www.dxconvention.org/>**

## **Electronic Flea Market Schedule**

Saturday, Apr 9	Hosted by South Peninsula Amateur Radio Klub
Saturday, May 21	Hosted by Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association (3rd Saturday)
Saturday, June 11	Hosted by Southern Peninsula Emergency Communications System
Saturday, July 9	Hosted by Foothills Amateur Radio Society
Saturday, Aug 13	Hosted by Silicon Valley Emergency Communications System
<b>Saturday, Sep 10</b>	<b>Hosted by West Valley Amateur Radio Association</b>
Saturday, Oct 8	Hosted by Silicon Valley Chapter, American Red Cross

More information at <http://www.electronicfleamarket.com/>

## **Ham Radio In Use In India**

The Hindu Business Line, a newspaper in India, reported that hams in India are contacting hams in Japan to get information concerning their loved ones. When a father in India could not get in touch with his daughter in Japan after the quake, he turned to a friend who was a radio amateur. In turn, the Indian amateur posted a message on an e-mail reflector where another ham relayed the message to a radio amateur in Japan. Through this method, the father learned that his daughter was safe. The Hindu Business Line, a newspaper in India, reported that hams in India are contacting hams in Japan to get information concerning their loved ones. When a father in India could not get in touch with his daughter in Japan after the quake, he turned to a friend who was a radio amateur. In turn, the Indian amateur posted a message on an e-mail reflector where another ham relayed the message to a radio amateur in Japan. Through this method, the father learned that his daughter was safe.

Thank you to Senthil, KJ6KCG for contributing this article

### ***First Rig of Mike, K6MKF:***



**Mike, WN2JLQ Using His First Rig**



**SWR Meter and 7.125 MHz Crystal**

It's 1968 in Poughkeepsie, NY and in the above picture I'm sitting at my first rig as a Novice, WN2JLQ - my first call. You can see behind me my Hammarlund SP-600JX receiver. I picked up this great old Navy-surplus rack-mount receiver, complete with its 60 lb. power supply, for \$75 from another local amateur. There's a Heathkit Q-Multiplier on the bench and that worked great on CW. I think the headphones were Army Air Force surplus.

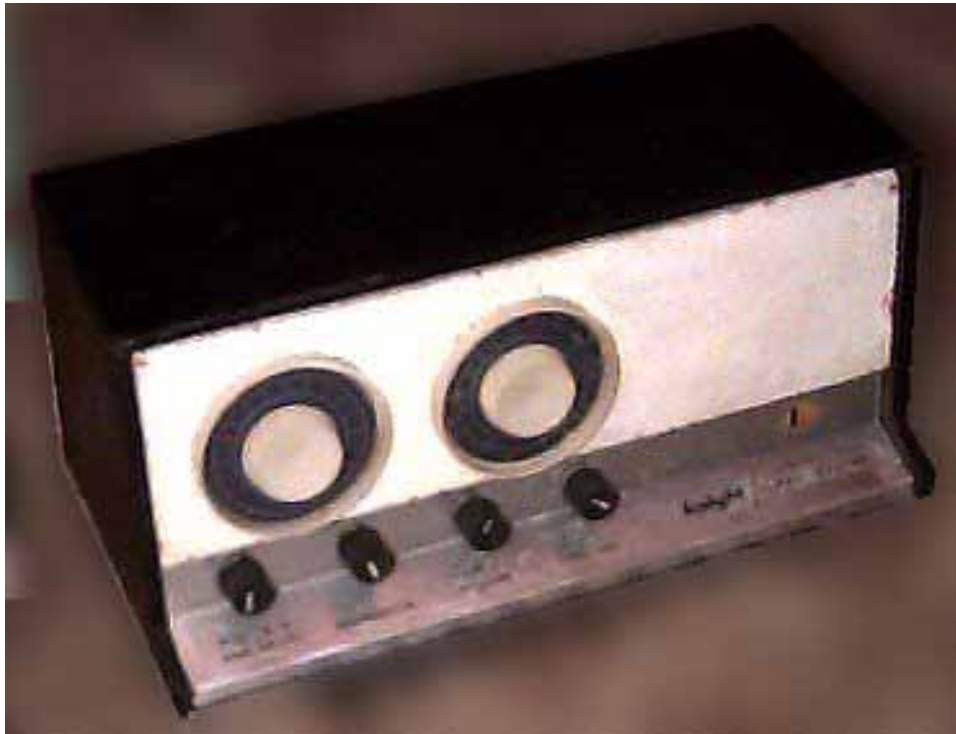
The transmitter was an Eico 720, a 90 watt, crystal-controlled CW rig. Not shown in the picture is my home brew antenna tuner which helped me match the end-fed long wire that can be seen on the wall behind the receiver. The long-wire went up the wall and out the bathroom window to the top of a tall tree in the back yard. On top of the Eico 720 is a Heathkit SWR meter that helped me keep the long-wire matched to the transmitter.

The shack was located in a linen closet just outside the bathroom door in my ground floor apartment in this old Poughkeepsie house. All this equipment was purchased at local ham-fests with my elmer, Dan, WB2PED at my side, advising me on my purchases. I can still remember how nervous I was when I had my first CW QSO with Dan. I still have the Heathkit SWR meter and a 7.125 Mhz crystal from my as souvenirs of my first rig.

Mike, K6MKF

### ***First Rig of Craig, AE6RR:***

When I got my novice ticket in 1961 as WV6SVW my station consisted of a Knight Kit Span Master receiver and a home brew transmitter. I was a freshman in high school at the time and I saved money from cutting lawns to buy the receiver. It was \$24.95 in kit form. This was a dual regeneration receiver (most people call it a super-regen) with two tubes and a selenium rectifier. As you may know a super regen is not very selective and you could hear the whole novice band without tuning much! I found this picture on the web at <http://www.ohio.edu/people/posr/bapix/spanmastr.html>:



My transmitter was adapted from a construction article in the 1961 ARRL Radio Amateur's Handbook. It was described as an "All-Band Inexpensive 40-Watt Transmitter". The original article used a 6AG7 as an oscillator multiplier and a 1625 (12V filament 807) for a final power amplifier. I scrounged parts from old TV sets to build the power supply; I didn't have a 700-800V transformer as was specified in the article so I put a couple of TV transformers in series. I used a 5U4 as a rectifier and put two 450V electrolytic filter capacitors in series to handle the voltage. The article used a filter choke and second capacitor for filtering. I didn't have a filter choke and couldn't afford one, so I just went with the two caps in series. I probably had some 120 cycle (we didn't have Hz back then) hum on my signal.

The oscillator/multiplier circuit had a tuned tank circuit with a coil and a variable cap. I only had one 40 meter crystal and I didn't need to multiply it, so I left those parts out also. As the transmitter was only rated 40 Watts, the novice limit was 75 Watts (input) and the 1625 tubes were cheap on the surplus market, I decided that if one was good two would be better (I started my QRO quest at that time), so I put two in parallel and used a design for an amplifier in the Handbook using two 813's in parallel as a reference. I even made my own parasitic chokes to go in the plate circuits by winding a few turns of wire on some 2W resistors. In ret-

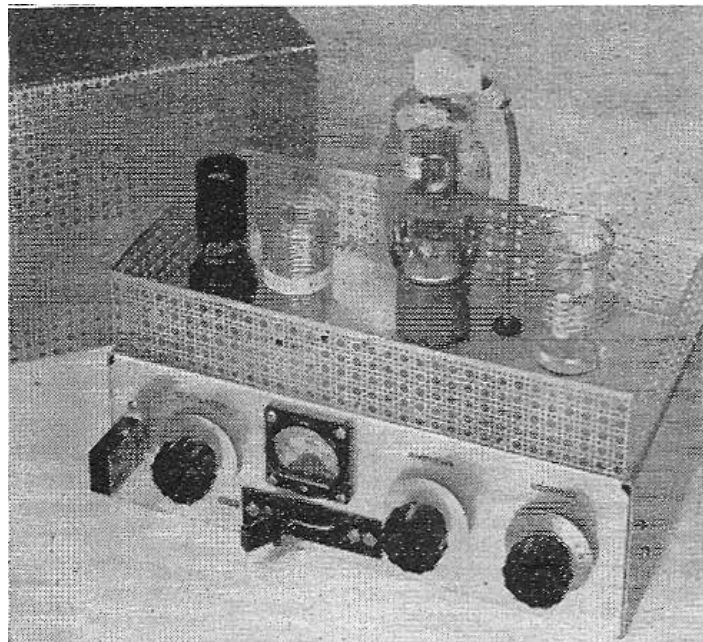


respect, I think that those chokes resonated on TV channel 5 (I got great signal reports from everyone in the neighborhood). I didn't have an ammeter for tuning so I used a 60W light bulb as a dummy load. The light bulb got nice and bright! The 1625's would also get a nice cherry red glow on the plates and as an added touch they were a bit gassy so there was some nice purple gas glowing in there too! It looked great in the dark.

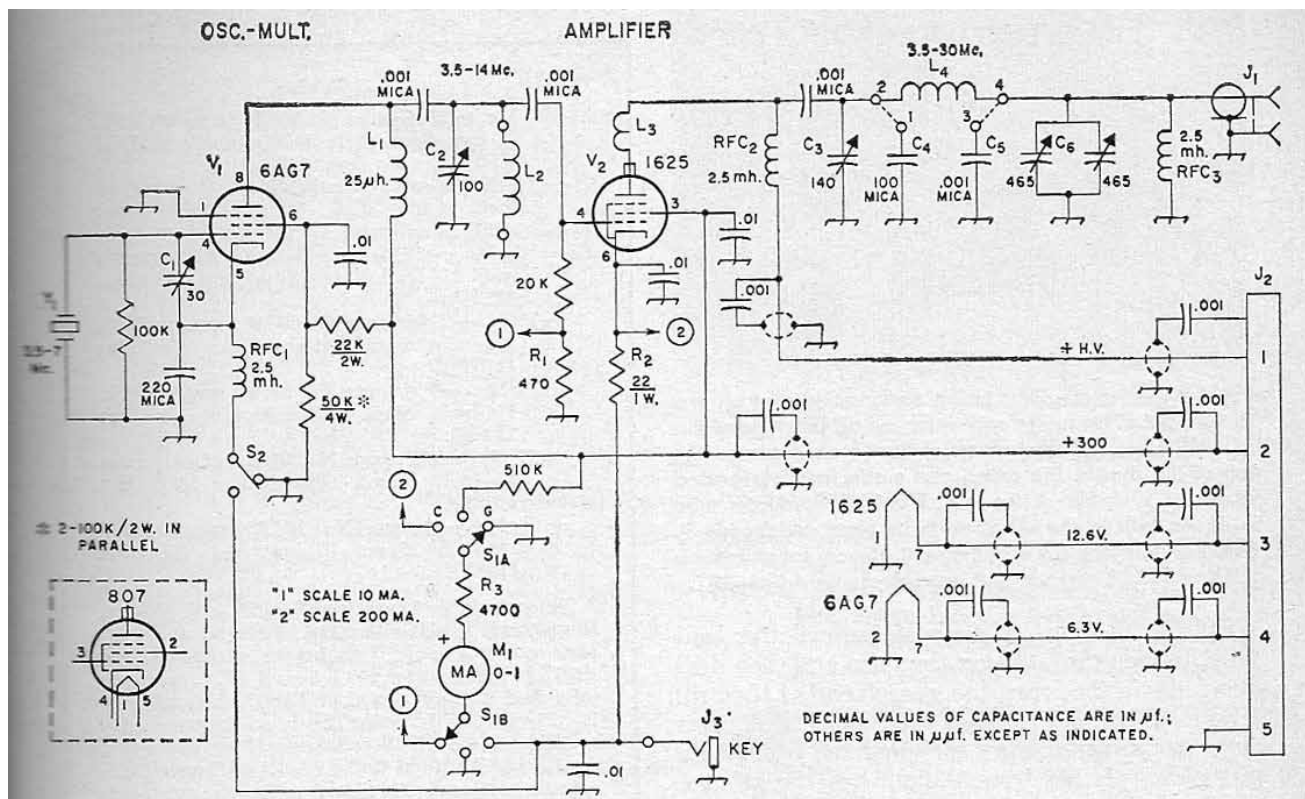
I didn't have any perforated metal to make a cover for the transmitter so the whole thing was built on a old open TV chassis with the tubes just sticking right up in the air with the plate caps on top (there was about 700 or 800 volts on the plates remember). My transmit/receive (TR) antenna switch was mounted on the wall behind the transmitter; it was a nice old knife switch that I found somewhere. One day I was calling CQ on 40M and as I finished my call I reached up for the TR switch and managed to touch one of the plate caps, with the key down of course! After I picked my self up from the other side of my bedroom, I noticed a small hole burnt in the end of my finger! It smelled bad also. I never told my Mom about that as I knew that the transmitter would have to go if I did!

My antenna was a simple dipole fed with RG-59 and I did make a few Q's with this setup and I still have the QSL cards to prove it. Most of my operating was when there was nothing good to watch on channel 5. I never touched the plate caps on the 1625's again either. A couple of years ago I found a copy of the 1961 Handbook on E-Bay and it was fun to go back and read that construction article. Later on I "graduated" to a Knight Kit T-60 transmitter but that is another story...

Craig, AE6RR



**Transmitter In Article That Craig Adapted**  
Craig says "mine didn't look like that - not nearly so nice"



### Schematic of Craig's Transmitter - From A Much Simpler Time!

***OK, Lets Have More Of These!***  
***Please Submit Your First Rig Articles And/Or Photos!***

## 2011 West Valley Amateur Radio Association Officers

President: Jim Peterson, K6EI  
Vice President: Bill Ashby, N6FFC  
Secretary: Jeannett Pispisa, KG6SVJ  
Treasurer: Jon Kelley, K6WV  
Directors:  
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Webmaster: Larry Goodwin, KG6ENF  
Club URL: <http://www.wvara.org>

Club address:  
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P.O. Box 6544  
San Jose, CA 95150-6544

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**Amateur Radio Technology Day**  
**Saturday, March 19, 8am to 6pm**  
<http://www.fars.k6ya.org/amtechday>

**See you at the meeting on Wednesday, March 16!**